

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
Box 538, Allentown, PA 18105
Tel. (215) 481-4911 • TWX 510-651-3686
CABLE-AIRPROD • TELEX 84-7416



Industrial Gas Division

DPM 150

Argon

Material Safety Data Sheet

EMERGENCY PHONE: 800—523-9374 IN PENNSYLVANIA: 800—322-9092	TRADE NAME AND SYNONYMS Argon, LAR (Liquid only)	CHEMICAL NAME AND SYNONYMS Argon
ISSUE DATE AND REVISIONS Issued: 13 April 1977 Rev: 16 February 1981	FORMULA Ar MW: 39.95	CHEMICAL FAMILY Inert gas

HEALTH HAZARD DATA

THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE

Argon is a simple asphyxiant and has no threshold limit value (TLV).

SYMPTOMS IF INGESTED, CONTACTED WITH SKIN, OR VAPOR INHALED

Argon is odorless and nontoxic, but may produce suffocation by diluting the concentration of oxygen in air below levels necessary to support life. **PERSONNEL, INCLUDING RESCUE WORKERS, SHOULD NOT ENTER AREAS WHERE THE OXYGEN CONCENTRATION IS BELOW 19%, UNLESS PROVIDED WITH A SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS OR AIR-LINE RESPIRATOR.** Exposure to oxygen-deficient atmospheres may produce dizziness, nausea, vomiting, loss of consciousness, and death. Death may result from errors in judgement, confusion, or loss of consciousness which prevents self-rescue. At low oxygen concentrations unconsciousness and death may occur in seconds without warning. Extensive tissue damage or burns can result from exposure to liquid argon or cold argon vapors.

TOXICOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Argon is nontoxic but can act as a simple asphyxiant by displacing the amount of oxygen in the air necessary to support life.

RECOMMENDED FIRST AID TREATMENT

Persons suffering from lack of oxygen should be moved to areas with normal atmosphere. **SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS MAY BE REQUIRED TO PREVENT ASPHYXIATION OF RESCUE WORKERS.** Assisted respiration and supplemental oxygen should be given if the victim is not breathing. If cryogenic liquid or cold boil-off gas contacts a worker's skin or eyes, frozen tissues should be flooded or soaked with tepid water (105-115F; 41-46C). **DO NOT USE HOT WATER.** Cryogenic burns which result in blistering or deeper tissue freezing should be seen promptly by a physician.

FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

FLASH POINT (Method used)

N/A

AUTO IGNITION TEMP

N/A

FLAMMABLE LIMITS

N/A

LEL

N/A

UEL

N/A

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA

N/A

ELECTRICAL CLASSIFICATION

GROUP N/A

SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES

N/A

UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS

N/A

PHYSICAL DATA

BOILING POINT (°F.)

@ 1 atm. -302.6F (-185.9C)

FREEZING POINT (°F.)

@ 1 atm -308.9F (-189.4C)

VAPOR PRESSURE (psia)

N/A

SOLUBILITY IN WATER

@ 68F (20C), 1 atm 3.35% by volume

VAPOR DENSITY (lb/cu ft)

@ 68F (20C), 1 atm 0.104

SPECIFIC GRAVITY (AIR = 1)

@ 68F (20C), 1 atm 1.38

LIQUID DENSITY (lb/cu ft)

@ boiling point, 1 atm 87.40

SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H₂O = 1)

@ boiling point, 1 atm 1.40

APPEARANCE AND ODOR

Both liquid and gaseous argon are colorless and odorless.

DISCLAIMER

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REACTIVITY DATA

STABILITY	UNSTABLE		CONDITIONS TO AVOID
	STABLE	X	
INCOMPATIBILITY (Materials to avoid)			
None			
HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS			
None			
HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION	MAY OCCUR		CONDITIONS TO AVOID
	WILL NOT OCCUR	X	

SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES

STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED

Avoid contact of skin with liquid argon or its cold boil-off gas. Flush liquid argon spill with water to disperse. Ventilate enclosed areas to prevent formation of oxygen-deficient atmosphere caused by the evaporation of liquid argon or the release of gaseous argon. Argon is heavier than air and may tend to collect in low areas if ventilation is not adequate.

WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD

Allow liquid argon to evaporate in a well ventilated outdoor location remote from work areas. Vent argon gas slowly to a well ventilated outdoor location remote from work areas. Do not attempt to dispose of residual argon in compressed gas cylinders. Return cylinders to Air Products with residual pressure, cylinder valve tightly closed and valve caps in place.

SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (Specify type)

Use self-contained breathing apparatus in oxygen-deficient atmosphere. Caution! Respirators will not function. Use may result in asphyxiation.

VENTILATION	LOCAL EXHAUST	SPECIAL
Natural or mechanical where gas or vapors are present.	MECHANICAL, General	OTHER
		Vents should be situated to avoid higher than normal concentration of argon in work areas.

PROTECTIVE GLOVES

(LAR) Loose-fitting gloves of impermeable material, such as leather. Leather work gloves are recommended when handling compressed gas cylinders.

EYE PROTECTION

Safety glasses are recommended when handling high-pressure cylinders. Chemical goggles or safety glasses should be used when handling LAR.

OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

None

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS*

SPECIAL LABELING INFORMATION

Argon shipment must be in accordance with Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations using the DOT "NONFLAMMABLE GAS" label. Consult DOT regulations for details on the shipping of hazardous materials.

SPECIAL HANDLING RECOMMENDATIONS

Prevent contact of liquid argon with exposed skin. Prevent entrapment of liquid in closed systems. Use only in well ventilated areas. Compressed gas cylinders contain argon at extremely high pressure and should be handled with care. Use a pressure-reducing regulator when connecting to lower pressure piping systems. Secure cylinders when in use. Never use direct flame to heat a compressed gas cylinder. Use a check valve to prevent backflow into storage container. Avoid dragging, rolling, or sliding cylinders, even for a short distance. Use a suitable hand truck. For additional handling recommendations on compressed gas cylinders, consult Compressed Gas Association Pamphlet P-1.

SPECIAL STORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Store liquid containers and cylinders in well-ventilated areas. Keep cylinders away from sources of heat. Storage should not be in heavy traffic areas to prevent accidental knocking over or damage from passing or falling objects. Valve caps should remain on cylinders not connected for use. Segregate full and empty cylinders. Storage areas should be free of combustible material. Avoid exposure to areas where salt or other corrosive chemicals are present. See Compressed Gas Association Pamphlet P-1 for additional storage recommendations.

SPECIAL PACKAGING RECOMMENDATIONS

Gaseous argon containers meet DOT specifications or American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) codes. Liquid argon is stored in vacuum-insulated containers meeting DOT specifications or ASME codes.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OR PRECAUTIONS

Liquid argon is cryogenic liquid. Materials of construction must be selected for compatibility with extremely low temperatures. Avoid use of carbon steel and other materials which become brittle at low temperatures. Compressed gas cylinders should not be refilled except by qualified producers of compressed gases. Shipment of a compressed gas cylinder filled without the permission of the owner is a violation of Federal Law. If oxygen-deficient atmospheres are suspected or can occur, use oxygen monitoring equipment to test for oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

*Various Government agencies (i.e., Department of Transportation, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Food and Drug Administration and others) may have specific regulations concerning the transportation handling, storage or use of this product which will not be reflected in this data sheet. The customer should review these regulations to ensure that he is in full compliance.